

Surviving dead week

JILLIAN WHITNEY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again, when the library closes too early, classes are finishing too fast and finals are approaching far too quickly. Friday marks the final day of regular classes at UNO and the beginning of finals week.

All this week is commonly referred to as "dead week" by students, but since May 2005, university faculty, staff and departments were asked to instead refer to the week as "prep week."

At that time, the Faculty Senate passed Resolution 2780, changing the wording but still emphasizing that no major tests were to be given during the week.

However, despite the name change, the stress remains the same for many students.

On Sunday, the Criss Library held a stress-free event to give students a chance to take a break with chair massages, food, snacks and raffles.

"There's no doubt this will be a busy two weeks for our students. Sometimes, a short break and a little diversion can help you



photo by Bill Wendt

Students relax in the Pep Bowl last Wednesday. Spring weather provides another temptation for students not to study for finals and finish projects. However, studying outside can provide a break from a dull atmosphere.

refocus on your studies," Criss Library Dean Steve Shorb said in a press release.

Adela Kubickova, a senior marketing major, said she has five finals and that despite the lack of exams, it was still a tough week.

"Dead week is just as stressful for me as finals week is. All my papers are due during that time, so it's almost the same. I think it would be great if nothing was assigned

during dead week because it would allow students to prepare better for the finals, but unfortunately, they don't do that," Kubickova said.

To relieve the stress Kubickova said she indulges in her favorite desert, chocolate.

"I eat a lot of chocolate when I'm stressed."

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Middle schooler hit by stray bullet

Maverick athlete was officiating soccer match when student was shot

TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

UNO student athlete Lindsay Nealon was in the middle of teaching a soccer player how to do a goal kick when she heard one of the teams' coach yell, "Everybody inside, run as fast as you can."

Nealon, a sophomore midfielder for the Mavericks, was a referee at a soccer game at King Science Center at 3720 Florence Blvd. And, while she didn't hear a shot, a player on the sidelines was hit by a bullet that police say most likely came from a mile away.

She and more than 80 students, teachers, parents and coaches were rushed into the center's cafeteria on Thursday at about 3:30 p.m. and put into lockdown until police arrived on the scene.

According to the *Omaha World-Herald*, 14-year-old fullback Taylor Borgeson had been struck in the face by a bullet. He had just stepped off the field when a bullet went in his cheek and out his lip, his grandmother, Wanda Borgeson told the *World-Herald*.

He required surgery to remove shattered teeth and bullet fragments.

The bullet, said Officer Bill Dropinski, was determined at the scene to be moving in a downward trajectory. Just minutes before Borgeson was shot, police had received a call regarding shots fired in a nearby



photo by Scott Stewart

A bullet most likely traveled about a mile when it hit a 14-year-old who was playing soccer at the field at King Science Center.

neighborhood.

Police had received a call about 3:30 p.m., reporting the sound of gunfire near Druid Hill Elementary, located at 4020 N. 30th St.

Five individuals were detained during a traffic stop at 3030 Spaulding St. after they were seen leaving the elementary school.

Police also investigated a residence at 2824 Spaulding St. that had been struck by bullets, Dropinski said. Some evidence was recovered during a search. However, "at this point and time, there was not enough evidence to arrest anyone," he said.

King Science had just dismissed for the day, but, due to the lockdown, many parents had difficulty getting a hold of their children or any more information.

Nealon, who had left her cell-phone in her car, was able to borrow a student's.

"I called my parents to let them know I was OK," Nealon said. "They didn't even know I was reffing."

She described the scene as more confusion than anything, with no one having seen an active shooter and cell-phone usage not allowed.

"The little kids wanted to call their parents and let them know what happened," she said.



"I own a lawn care business, so I got to work every day after school, and then, when I come home, I have to study until two in the morning."

- ALEX PEARSON -
SOPHOMORE, BUSINESS



Question: What do you do to relax during dead week?
"Eat frosting. Eat spoonfuls of frosting, and take naps in the afternoon."

- ABBY SKILES - (RIGHT)
FRESHMAN, SPANISH

- ALSO PICTURED: ASHLEY STALEY -
FRESHMAN (LEFT)



Question: Can I ask you some questions on stress reduction and management during finals week?

"Yes. Can you come back tomorrow and ask me that; I am kind of busy."

- ANDREW FAURES -
JUNIOR, ECONOMICS



"The most stressful thing, probably, is I tend to look at the whole thing, like I have this many tests in the next couple weeks, so just the tests. Actually the papers, the papers are more stressful than the tests for me."

- ABIGAIL ANSON -
SENIOR, JOURNALISM (RIGHT)
- ALSO PICTURED: CATELYN NEWMAN -
JUNIOR, PSYCHOLOGY

Youth day of service



UNO students joined others around the world in a global day of cleaning up parks and public works.

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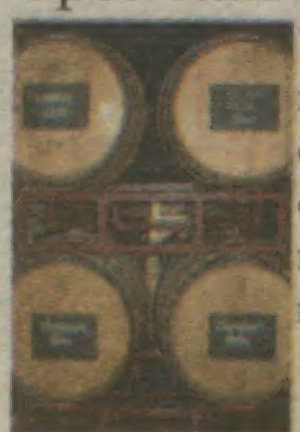
Security guard profiles



Campus Security officer Jerry Anderson loves helping others, while officer Adam Miller also fights fires.

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Upstream Brewery Co.



Upstream, located in the Old Market, offers high-class dining as well as a microbrewery and microdistillery.

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Preparing for regionals



The Maverick golf team is ranked No. 1 in the North Region after finishing second in the Okoboji Invite.

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Softball drops two



After two cancelled games, the Mavs dropped games to Winona State and Central Missouri on Sunday.

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Max Aldridge walks across a fallen tree trunk to clean up trash from Elmwood Creek. Campus Crusade for Christ spent the day picking up trash Saturday at UNO.

photo by Bill Wendl

UNO students join global community on youth day of service on Saturday

TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

Hundreds of students went out into the Omaha community, armed with trash bags and garden tools on Saturday to participate in a worldwide event, Global Youth Service Day.

UNO partnered with Western Hills Elementary School to clean up Benson Park, Omaha Hearing School and an elementary school park as part of the initiative to increase youth volunteering and community responsibility.

Volunteers picked up trash and planted flowers and trees as students

from around the globe also worked to improve their communities.

Following closely on the heels of Earth Day, the event also aimed to increase environmental activism and conservatism, especially among youths.

This was the second year UNO and Western Hills have collaborated on the project. This year, they went to work alongside about 800,000 youth across the world, said Kathe Oleson, a UNO professor of non-profit administration.

"This is connecting Omaha to the global event," Oleson said in a statement.

Students close mouths, open minds for Day of Silence

NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
ASST. NEWS/SPORTS EDITOR

What began as a University of Virginia class assignment in 1996 has since become a national event, allowing students and faculty across the U.S. to speak up on issues concerning gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals in the school setting.

On April 24, UNO participated in the Day of Silence event, with John Carl Denkovich, director of the Gender and Sexual Orientation Agency, organizing the day's proceedings. Many students participated on campus by not speaking and handing out information to other students.

During an event in the Milo Bail Student Center, several speakers addressed issues relating to discrimination and bullying including Meredith Bacon, professor in the political science department, and Sara Barnett, GLSEN Jumpstart/Central High School Student Leader.

GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, is a national organization that focuses on sexual identity and orientation acceptance.

"There are many people ... who feel very isolated on

campus and cannot be who they are," said Joseph Price, professor in UNO's English department.

Bacon addressed the discrimination that transgender students face from their peers and society, something she knew firsthand from a transgender operation in 2005.

"God will not punish them for being trans," Bacon said. "She has made them that way."

Barnett said that many times, GLBT students face discrimination from administration and faculty.

"We have a lot of students that are supportive," Barnett said. "Unfortunately, the administration isn't there yet."

Price said that he was happy that there was a protection against sexual orientation discrimination in UNO's mission statement.

"I feel very blessed to work on this campus," Price said.

Jesse Cozad III, a student in UNO's secondary education program, agreed with Price, saying that he felt a lot of support from students and faculty during the event.

"It was nice to be here and actually have support from a school," Cozad said.

Tax-free textbook lobbying, summer meetings approved *Student Senate*

BRIAN MOODY
CONTRIBUTOR

A resolution asking for lobbying to consider doing away with sales taxes on college textbooks received favorable nods from the Student Senate Thursday night during its final meeting of the semester.

The senate's Government Liaison Committee was instructed by to start lobbying the Nebraska Legislature.

With students' book costs tripling in the past 20 years, providing students with up to a \$70 savings can help ease some of the financial burden students face, even though it is only minimal savings, said College of Business Sen. Conner Holt during the meeting.

"As you look at the resolution, you might be thinking that is not a substantial amount of money," Holt said. "I think that is definitely enough to really support the cause. With each university's student government being involved - contacting [the legislature] - it will definitely be able to keep the cost issue of education in Nebraska on a forefront and letting them know that for some students it is hard [to pay for textbooks]."

Ten states have already approved similar measures.

Last year, Nebraska saw Legislative Bill 32, proposed by then-UNL Student President/Regent Matt Schaefer and introduced by State Sen. Danielle Nantkes of Lincoln, fail in the Unicameral.

LB 32 would have removed sales and use taxes on textbooks for all full- and part-time students.

In other senate action:

- Several appointments - including senator seats, committee chairs and organization directors - were welcomed, while College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media Sen. Holly Byers resigned from her seat for personal reasons.

- The final two pieces of the Yourvoice student government e-mail campaign resolution were passed.

Yourvoice is an information clearinghouse with a goal of increasing visibility and communication with students.

- Allocations for mini-staplers and water bottles with SG-UNO's logo were given the go-ahead. Used

at student government and other school related events, the items aim to help raise awareness of the organization among the student body.

- The senate approved holding four meetings over the summer on May 29, June 26, July 31 and Aug. 21 at 7 p.m.

Those meetings will have restrictions on making appointments, approving large allocations and implementing rule changes to ensure that senators unable to attend will not miss out. The July and August meetings will also be cancelled if quorum is not made in the first meetings.

The next regular senate meeting will be held in August.

Editor-in-Chief Scott Stewart contributed to this report.



Holly Byers

THE Gateway

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The Gateway is published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Publications Committee on Tuesdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and on Tuesdays during the summer sessions.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the Advertising Manager. Other inquiries and complaints should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief. Copies of the Student Publications Committee inquiry/complaint policy are available at The Gateway's office, located on the first floor of the Milo Bail Student Center.

The Gateway is funded as follows: 70 percent advertising revenue, 30 percent student fees allocated by student government.

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Features

Pamela Bouterse | Features Editor

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features@unogateway.com | April 29, 2008

Dispatch to all students *Two campus security officers you should really get to know*

SEAN DARRELL
CONTRIBUTOR

Jerry Anderson

If there's one thing Jerry Anderson loves, it's being helpful. Anderson said that being a security guard allows him to help people the most.

"I like the contact with people. I'm a people person," he said.

Anderson said that to be a security guard is to be the "greatest ambassador," because guards will be one of the first people that students will meet on campus.

Before joining UNO's security force, Anderson worked as a guard for Mutual of Omaha for four and a half years. He joined UNO 14 months ago and joked that he would give his boss a "10-year plan" with UNO.

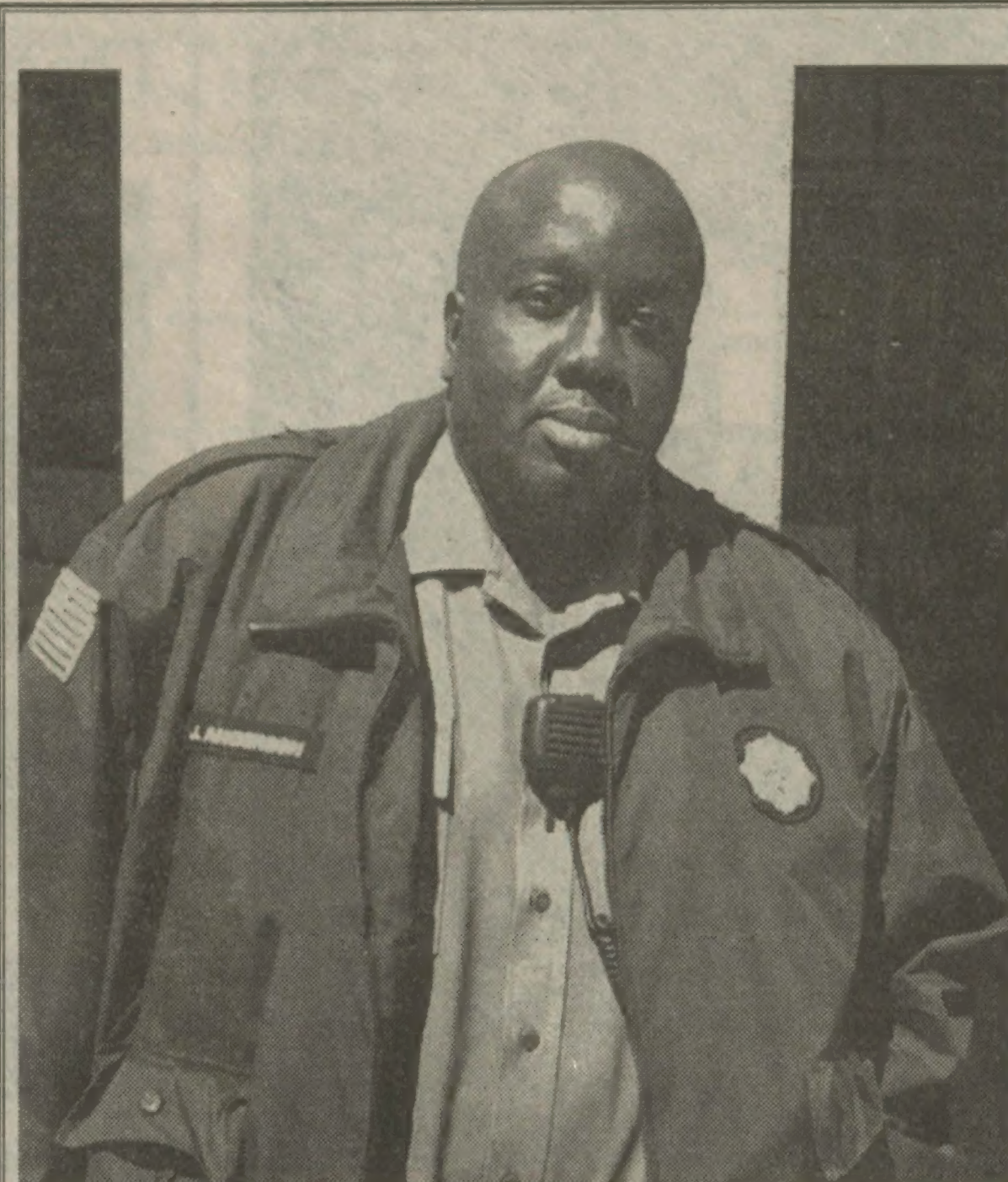
As a UNO guard, Anderson said the most memorable event was the bomb scare at the Arts and Sciences Hall.

"[Students] really made me feel good ... they appreciate us doing a good job and being there for them," he said.

Anderson not only helps students every day, he also helps dependent seniors and Alzheimer's patients as a member of the Home Instead Senior Care service.

"Giving back in life is what it's all about," he said. Anderson said that he loves being a positive influence on people.

Anderson was never a UNO student, but majored in business while at the University of Texas at El Paso. Anderson also took business courses while on a three-and-a-half year tour in the Army.



JERRY ANDERSON

Adam Miller

If you don't see Adam Miller in uniform on campus, it might be because he is off saving someone from a burning building. Not only does he patrol the campus as a UNO security guard, but Miller also volunteers as a firefighter.

Miller came to UNO after working for American Security for almost two years. He said that being a security guard is "more interactive."

Miller has been at UNO for the last four weeks and plans to remain while he returns to his studies this fall. Miller once studied criminal justice because he always wanted to be a police officer.

Miller said that the most memorable event of his career so far was when he "nicely" escorted a few homeless people off the premises where they had defecated and left graffiti on a business.

Another memorable moment for Miller was when he became supervisor at American Security and found himself supervising members of the staff that had been with the company for more than seven years.

Outside of work, Miller enjoys hunting, fishing, working on cars and four-wheeling.

Miller will attend UNO this fall, but he has not decided if he will continue to pursue criminal justice or if he will major in fire

ecology instead.

"I like the fire department a lot, but I've wanted to be a cop since I was a kid," he said.

Miller said the time he spends as a guard would be great for the experience and his resume when he applies for a police force. Miller said that when he achieves either career goal, he plans to stay with the profession until he's forced to retire.

"They'll probably have to kick me out," he said.

photos by Sean Darrell



ADAM MILLER

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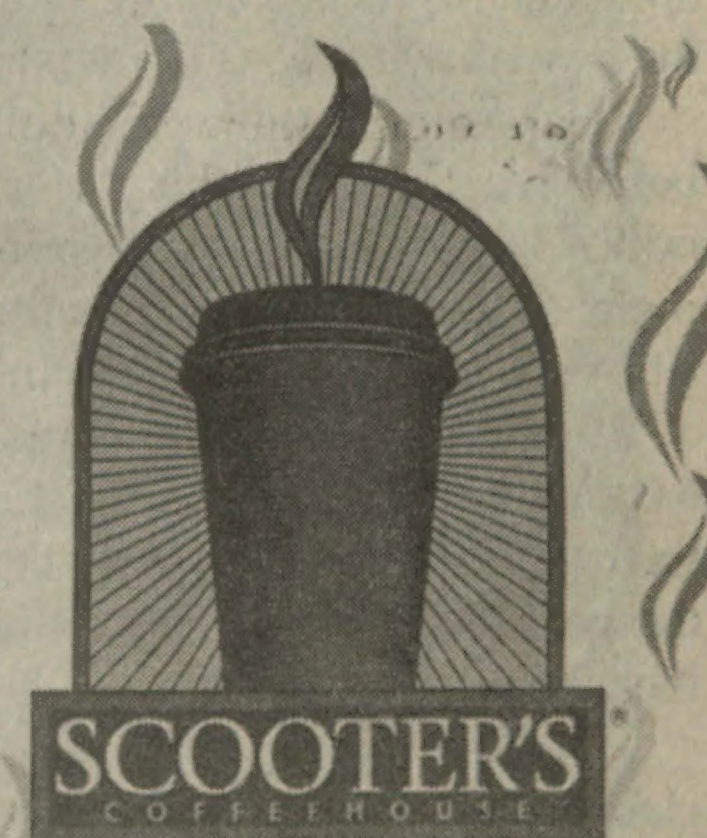
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Brewing success in Nebraska

A look at downtown Omaha's Upstream Brewing Company



photos by Charley Reed

Located at 11th and Jackson streets, the Upstream Brewing Company houses its own microbrewery. Not only can patrons get fresh beer from the tap, but they can also custom order growlers of their favorite flavor to take home and bring back to refill.

CHARLEY REED
A&L EDITOR

Walk into the Upstream Brewing Company in the Old Market and you'll find the usual high-class dining establishment the downtown area is known for.

However, it doesn't take long after being led to your table by a server to notice large casks, a staggering row of metal draught taps and giant mash tins sitting behind a plate-glass window.

From anywhere in this pub you can tell that the name isn't just for show. In fact, the Upstream Brewing Company is one of the most recognizable microbreweries in Nebraska.

Opened in 1996, the idea of an high-class brewpub, just like cultivating any good beer, had to germinate. It all started in 1988 with Upstream's founder and current president, Bryan Magee, and his repeated trips to Colorado's oldest brewpub, the Wynkoop Brewing Company.

"My brother lived out there, and I would visit him and he would show me the places that were kind of hot in town," Magee explained. "At that time there was nothing else in LoDo [lower downtown] ... and it was phenomenal."

As time went on, Magee took notice of the brewpub's popularity. With some experience in the dining industry, Magee saw a chance to get in on an exciting new business in Omaha.

"I thought we could do something that would be different and unique and have maybe a little more upscale feel," he said.

Even though there were already several brewpubs open across Omaha at the time, Magee was convinced the idea would work. To get off the ground, in 1992, Magee called in help from John Hickenlooper, founder of the Wynkoop Brewing Company.

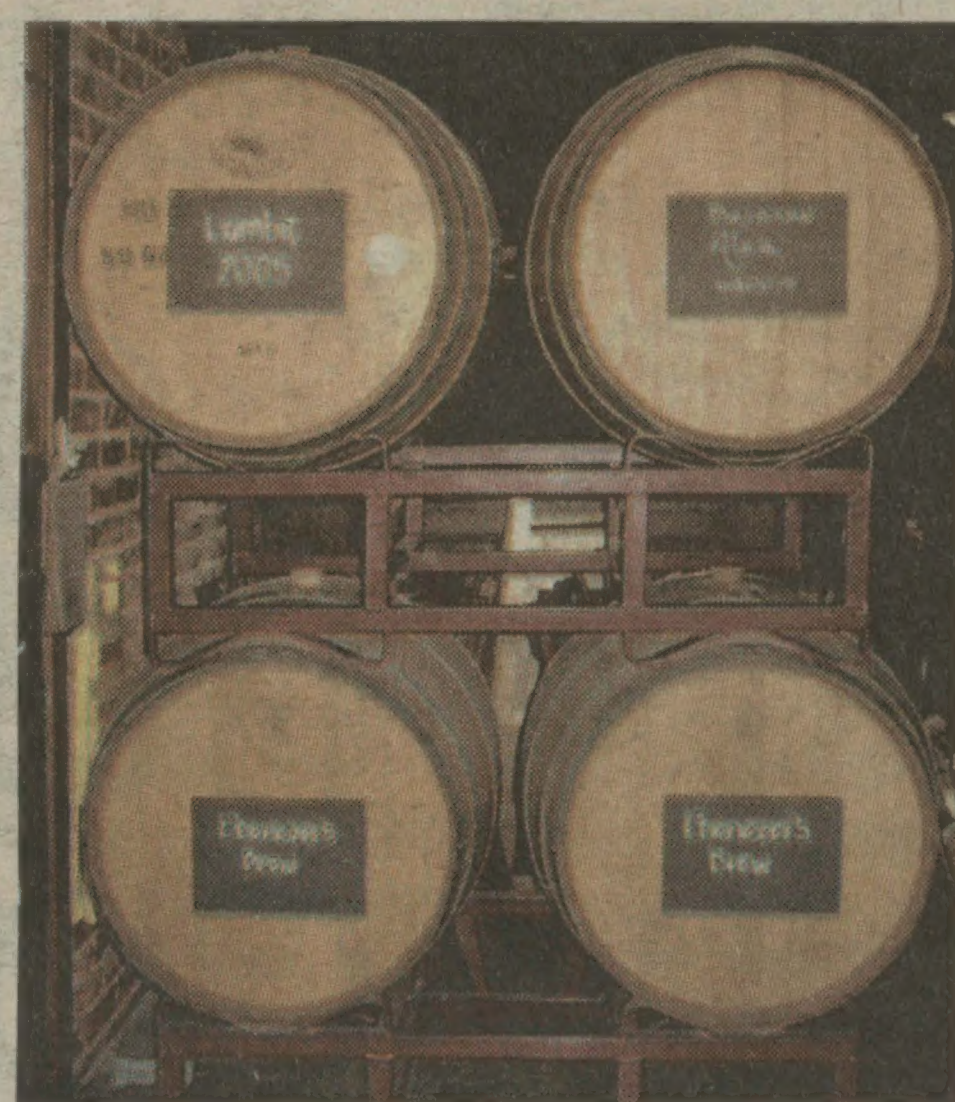
Magee and Hickenlooper bought their current property at 11th and Jackson streets from the owners of long-time downtown staple, Spaghetti Works. Formerly a firehouse, Spaghetti Works

had been using the location as a dinner theater.

"They wanted focus on their restaurant business and we ended up buying the building in '95 and it took about nine to 10 months to convert it into what it is now," Magee said.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Winner of multiple "Best of Omaha" awards, Upstream now has a second location in Legacy, a catering business and a selection of quality beers. And much like the company's name deviates from a native translation of "Omaha,"



Upstream's Omaha-based selections include O! Gold Light Beer, Gold Coast Blonde ale, Capital Premium Pale Ale, Firehouse ESB, Dundee Scotch Ale and Blackstone Stout.

most selections have a connection to the city.

"If you look at our stout, it's called Blackstone Stout after the old Blackstone Hotel, if you look at our Gold Coast Blonde ale, there's the Gold Coast area which was kind of the high-end partying area of the big mansions in the teens, '20s and '30s," Magee said.

But even with what Upstream has accomplished over the last 12 years, its brightest days seem to be still ahead of it.

Having won multiple national beer

awards over the past five years, 2007 was the company's best year yet. At the World Beer Championships, two new creations, Batch 1000 Barley Wine and Ebenezer's Ale won Silver Medals while a combination of Upstream's Firehouse ESB and India Pale Ale called "Hoppy Marriage" won a Bronze Medal.

Also, in 2007, Upstream was able to obtain a micro-distillery license, allowing them to create other variations of alcohol including vodka, scotch, gin, rum and brandy, among others.

Already planning to build a distillery at Upstream's Legacy location, Magee hopes his intuition on micro-distilleries is just as sharp as it was on brewpubs.

"If you look at the beverage business, craft beers started in the late '70s - early '80s and, even though it's only about five-and-a-half percent of the total market, it's growing pretty quickly," he explained.

"There are a few small craft distilleries that are out there that have done pretty well for themselves. ... Idaho has a distillery-pub called Bardenay which is really interesting - it's like a brewpub but they distill there and they sell right through their restaurant ... I think they're just getting ready to open a third one."

With such an investment, there is no telling how big Upstream could become. But for Magee, there are no "family secrets," so to speak, with any current or future creations. Fame and fortune all come second to a love for brewing and the brewing community.

"I don't think [craft breweries] necessarily see themselves as adversaries," he said. "In that way, we want to share information with other brewers because we want other brewers to be good at what they do."

For more information on the Upstream Brewing Company, visit upstreambrewing.com.

The Gateway's "Brewing success in Nebraska" series concludes in the May 2 issue with a feature on Lincoln's Empyrean Ales.

Omaha-based beer selections at Upstream Brewing



Six of Upstream's common 12-beer selection have ties to the metro area. Named for various Omaha landmarks, the brews run the gamut from light to dark and mild to bitter. No matter what your taste, you're bound to find something you'll enjoy.

O! Gold Light Beer

Named after the city's "O!" campaign, with help from the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Upstream's lightest beer is also their most popular.

Gold Coast Blonde

Named after Omaha's upper-class "Gold Coast," which existed in the early 1900s, the beer is a slightly more malt-heavy take on a typically light beer flavor.

Omaha's Capital Premium Pale Ale

The Capital Premium Pale Ale is five percent alcohol-by-volume amber beer. A lighter beer with a hoppy aftertaste, the selection is one of the more refreshing Upstream has to offer.

Firehouse ESB

Named for the very firehouse that Upstream is now housed within, this is a very refreshing bitter beer. A Silver-Medal winner at the 2005 Great American Beer festival and one part of the "Hoppy Marriage" Bronze-Medal winner at the 2007 World Beer Championships, it's a beer that deserves the praise it gets.

Dundee Scotch Ale

Named after the famous mid-town neighborhood, and with a logo designed to include the clock at 50th and Underwood streets, Dundee Scotch Ale is a malt-heavy addition to Upstream's repertoire.

Blackstone Stout

In honor of the prestigious Blackstone Hotel, which still stands at 302 S. 36th St., this beer is the darkest Upstream has to offer. The selection, while easy to drink, can leave you feeling like you just ate a loaf of bread.

The Gateway's guide to summer beers

COMMENTARY BY
CHARLEY REED
A&L EDITOR

Let's face it; summer is quite possibly the best time of the year to experience beer. Unfortunately summer brew selections aren't always the best. Fans of bitter, hoppy beers will likely find something they can enjoy over the next four months, but for everyone else, this guide should help.



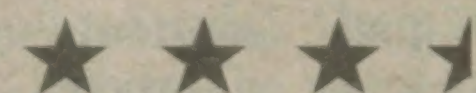
Zommerfest

This selection from the August Schell Brewing Company is the perfect selection for a nice, cool summer day after cooking some burgers on the grill. Promoted as ale brewed with Honey, this is slightly hoppy, bitter beer has a strong initial kick of citrus. While not the smoothest of beers going down, the aftertaste leaves you longing for more. My palate might have been tainted a bit by drinking Upstream's Firehouse ESB earlier in the day, but it's still a decent selection.



Honeymoon

Molson's seasonal take on Blue Moon is a crisp honey flavor with a full body and a tart aftertaste. There is definitely a hint of orange zest in the beginning but nothing that really overshadows the initial refreshing hit on the first swig. After the tart flavor hits a deep honey flavor lingers as an aftertaste. Honey Moon is a wheat beer that doesn't really do anything to stand out as especially bitter or hoppy. This can be a good or bad thing depending on what you're looking for but anyone looking for an easy introduction to the summer seasonal flavor, this is the beer for you.



Curve Ball

Pyramid Brewery's summer edition is a smooth beer with a crisp aftertaste that isn't hoppy as much as invigorating. The initial kick of bitter slowly fades away into a sweetness not unlike a cranberry or grape but with a less acidic quality to it than those fruits. There isn't a lot of heft to the beer (compared to a darker, fall-type lager or stout) but it doesn't feel watered down either. This is something that would definitely be something warranting a repeat drink for those who prefer the tartness of lemonade to a tall glass of water in the summer.



Sunset Weiss

Black Dog's Sunset Weiss is a beer with the bitter aftertaste one would expect in a summer beer. While still tasting like a full-body selection the beer is a very easy, smooth drink. A tart lemon flavor helps sell the beer as a summer selection but as the description promises, there's nothing that limits it as something to just one season.



With the first days of summer rapidly approaching, make sure to get out and enjoy the great temperatures and warm sun. And, if you decide to quench your thirst with a refreshing beer, as always with any alcoholic beverage, be sure to drink responsibly.

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Faith in a different light

The Blue Barn's 'The Man from Nebraska'

REVIEW BY
NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
ASST. NEWS/SPORTS EDITOR

"The Man from Nebraska," a Blue Barn performance directed by Susann Suprenant, takes a more realistic approach to a man's journey to find God.

Starting out slow, the play goes through the methodical patterns in Ken Carpenter's (Jonathan Wilhoft) life. One night, waking up from a dream, Ken realizes that he doesn't believe in God.

When Ken tells his wife, Cammie (Ruth Rath), what is going on, she doesn't understand.

Faith being the basis for his life and interpersonal relationships, its absence leaves Ken searching for what he is missing. Reverend Todd (Paul Lickteig), tells Ken to go on a trip by himself.

The ensuing journey leads to a world full of adultery, drugs, socioeconomic differences and art.

This performance is interesting because it approaches issues that aren't usually talked about.

It is a realistic journey of a man finding his faith, all sins included.

The most intriguing part comes

when Ken's daughter, Nancy (Delaney Driscoll), tells her father that her husband thinks Ken is going to hell. When Ken says that Nancy's husband is a fool, Nancy replies that she stands by her husband's beliefs.

"Then, you're a fool," Ken says.

This was an interesting scene because it shows how our own families condemn us for not fitting in with their standards. It is something that you wouldn't necessarily hear in a religious discussion at church.

As for the play's production, the set design was beautiful, and, though simplistic, it was easy to follow the different scenes.

Another prominent feature in the production area of this performance was the lighting set, which captured the distinctive moods of the actors. It was intriguing to see how peoples' reactions changed with the scenes as the colors of the lights played differently on the stage.

"The Man from Nebraska" plays through May 10. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. For more information call 345-1576 or visit Blue Barn Theatre's Web site at bluebarn.org.

From **FINALS**: Page 1

I always try to prepare sooner for finals because I know how stressful it is, but it never works out that way. Just chocolate works," Kubickova said.

Steven Booton, an undergraduate special education major, agreed, saying the addition of assignments other than exams made the week a burden.

"My dead week is not dead at all; it's no different than any other week," Booton said. "It would be nice to not have other assignments due. It would be nice if during dead week I could get in depth to other projects and also to study for traditional finals for finals week only."

Booton said praying helped him relieve stress during the hectic final weeks.

"I just ask for peace and take a breath on what's important in the big scope of things. I put my life in perspective and breathe, simply breathe," Booton said.

But, its not just students that feel the crunch. Professors will be required to return papers and exams in a timely manner, creating stress for many, said assistant English professor Lisabeth Buchelt.

"Generally, since most of my classes require final papers in lieu of exams, my stressful week is the week after finals week since that's when I need to read somewhere between 60 to 90 six- to 10-page papers within just a couple of days in order to turn around the grades," Buchelt said.

Empathizing with the amount of stress her students are under, Buchelt said she typically does not present new material during the final week but understands why many professors do.

"Whenever I teach, for example, the British Literature I survey, a course in which I need to provide the students with an overview of British literature

from the early medieval period through the 18th century, I often need those last two classes to do justice to the 18th century," Buchelt said.

For Bruce Johansen, a communications professor, the week before finals is the busiest all year. For

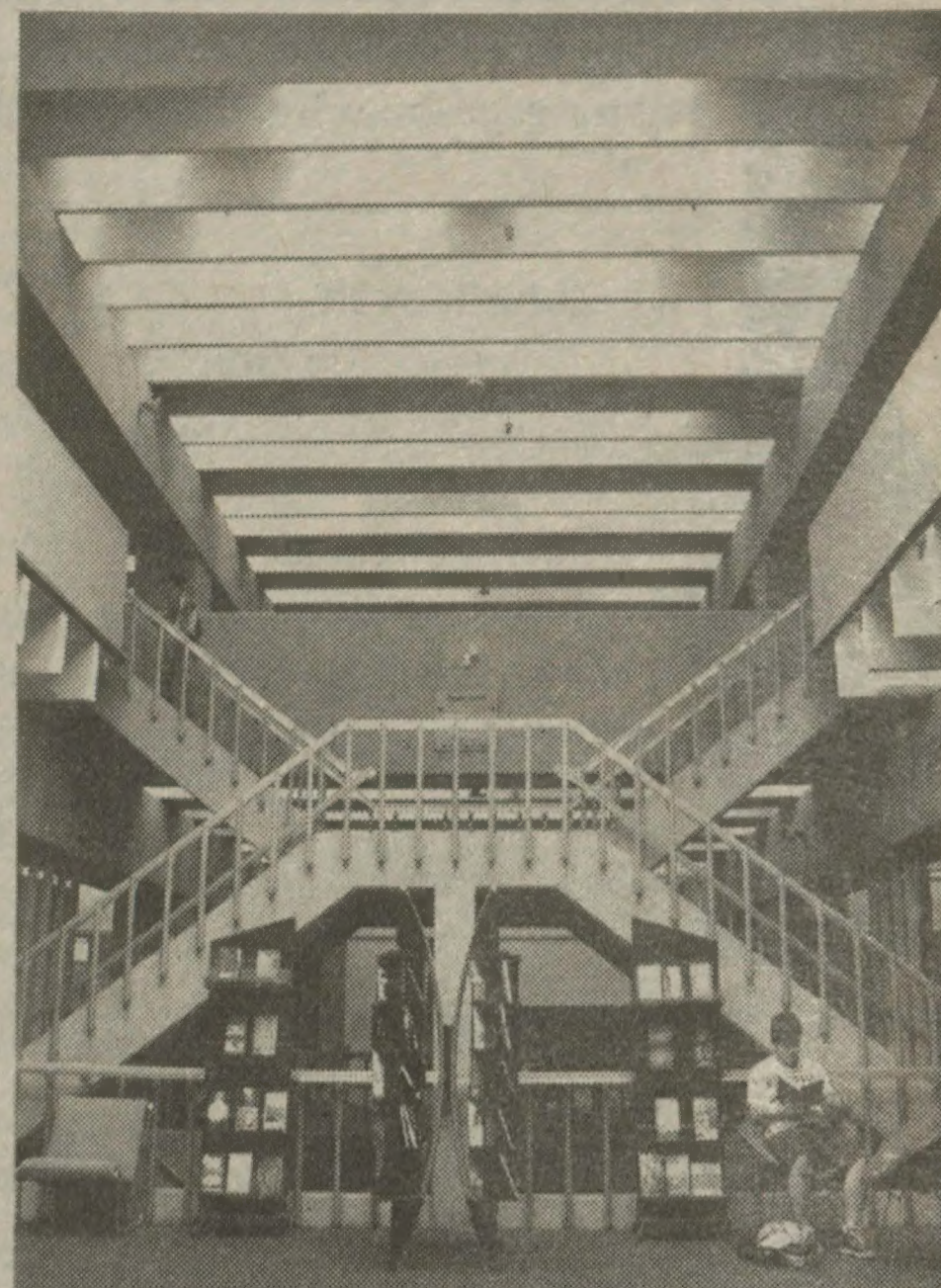


photo by Bill Wendt

The Criss Library is open 7 a.m. to midnight Monday to Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and noon to midnight on Sunday.

him, relieving the stress of dead week is as simple as buckling down and getting the work done.

"Most of my classes are writing labs for which finals tests are not appropriate. Therefore, finals week is not unusual," Johansen said. "I am usually grading final papers and projects, making up grades and preparing for writing projects over the coming break. Usually, my classes peak the week before finals, because the emphasis is on writing projects."

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Mavs finish second at Okobojo

Third straight runner-up finish has golf team hungry for regional title

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

In collegiate golf, second place is more than just the first loser.

The UNO golf team's runner-up finish behind Upper Iowa at this weekend's Okobojo Invitational marks the third straight time the Mavericks have been a spot away from a title.

For UNO, three straight second-place finishes has the team firmly positioned as the No. 1 seed in the North Region.

Three straight second-place finishes, preceded by a title in Texas in March, has UNO ranked 16th nationally in the latest National Golf Coaches' Association Division II poll.

For Head Coach Tim Nelson, three straight second-place finishes exemplifies the consistency of this year's group, a trait that could prove valuable at the NCAA Division II North Regional Championship May 5 through May 7 in Grand Forks, N.D.

"We don't have the best player in the region, but we have exceptionally good players," Nelson said. "They and I are sick of second places, but we see the teams that are up and down, and we've been pretty consistent."

"That's why I think we have an excellent opportunity at regionals to be very successful."

One more second-place finish, at the regional tournament, will be UNO's most important to date. The top two finishers from each region will compete for the NCAA Division II National Championship in Houston May 13 through May 16.

After finishing seventh at nationals in 2006, the Mavericks narrowly missed a national berth a season ago. UNO stormed back from 21 shots down on the final day, only to fall to Truman State in a playoff to miss national qualifying for the first time since 2004.

Barring injury, Nelson said he has his five-golfer lineup set for this year's regional tournament.

Erin Ommen, Abbey Weddle, Sara Wolfe, Lindsay Newton and Lynn Mulligan have followed five different paths and ridden five different rollercoasters to get to this point of the 2008 season. With the regional tournament just six days away, the five golfers that will represent UNO in Grand Forks reflect on the current status of their game and their mindset following their regular season finale.



ERIN OMMEN, SOPHOMORE

On Sunday, Ommen recorded the day's best round, 77, at Okobojo. The sharp-shooter from Millard North has now turned in three top-10 finishes in four tournaments this spring.

For Ommen, a round like the one she turned in Sunday may have provided the spark she needed to play the upcoming regional tournament with confidence.

"[Sunday's round] helped," Ommen said. "I made some good swings and felt good about how I was playing and was calm, and hopefully that can carry in to next weekend."



ABBEY WEDDLE, SOPHOMORE

Weddle has hit her stride at the perfect time. After finishing no better than ninth in the fall season, the Topeka, Kan., native kicked off her spring season with a share of the Lady Lion Invitational. She has finished inside the top 10 in all four tournaments this spring.

As well as she has played, Weddle still sees room for improvement in her game during the days prior to regionals.

"I feel like I'm playing OK. I mean, it could always be better, but I'm pretty confident in how I'm doing right now," Weddle said. "Hopefully, I can get just a little bit better, but I feel good."



SARA WOLFE, SENIOR

Wolfe has been the catalyst for UNO in the spring season; she has finished no worse than seventh so far.

Competing in a sport that requires mental preparedness and confidence, Wolfe has been playing with a lot of both.

"I haven't been questioning my game at all this season," Wolfe said. "So I'm feeling pretty good about it. I'm prepared."



LINDSAY NEWTON, SENIOR

Newton has experienced a bit of a falling out after a scorching sub-80 stroke average in the fall season. The best finish for her this spring was a tie for 10th place at the Upper Iowa Spring Invitational earlier this month.

Newton turned in a 172 in Okobojo over the weekend, which left her in a tie for 19th place.

For the North Platte native, the higher scoring can be directly attributed to an errant flat stick.

"For me, it's my putting," Newton said. "My ball-striking is really good right now, but I'm lacking around the greens, so that's what I need to work on."



LYNN MULLIGAN, SENIOR

Mulligan is the wildcard for this team heading into this critical late season stretch. In the fall, the pre-pharmacy major was the team's No. 1 golfer.

Mulligan's only two finishes outside of the top 10 this season have come in the team's last two tournaments, including a team-worst 28th-place at Okobojo this weekend.

Still, the senior has enough skill and experience to hang her hat on as she prepares for Grand Forks.

"Right now, I'm not playing to my fullest potential," Mulligan said. "But I know what I need to work on for this week, and hopefully my game will be there and come through for me next weekend."

Mav baseball gets break from cold

The inconsistent weather of the Midwest once again made its mark on UNO baseball's 2008 schedule. UNO's slate of games with St. Cloud State in Minnesota, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, were moved to Monday and Tuesday due to inclement weather conditions.

UNO (32-10, 12-0) will follow up its four-game stint with the Huskies with four games against Minnesota State, Mankato, during the first week of May.

The four road games with Mankato (21-16, 10-2) will end UNO's conference season and may in fact decide the regular season North Central Conference championship.

In all, the Mavericks have 10 more games left on their schedule before the North Central Conference tournament, May 8 through 11, kicks off their postseason.

- Jason Sibson

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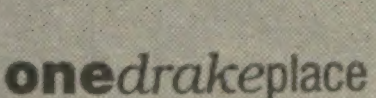
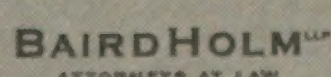
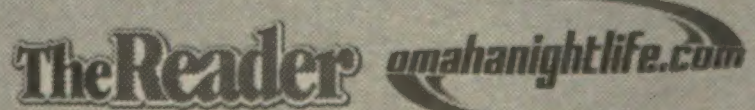
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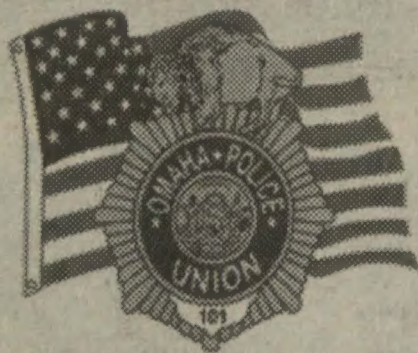


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Softball drops back-to-back games in Mankato to end regular season

SEAN OWENS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The final regular season showdowns for the UNO softball team were scheduled to be a full slate of games in the Minnesota State tournament over the weekend.

The cold weather, as is the norm in the Midwest, caused Saturday's games against Northwest Missouri State and the University of Mary to be cancelled. The Mavericks went into Sunday knowing that they would have to make up some ground with cancellations of their two early-tourney contests.

The team, however, faced some tough times in the two games and went back to Omaha unable to sustain a rebirth of a 15-game win streak from earlier this month.

To start the day, UNO faced a Winona State team looking to take out the North Central Region No. 1 Mavericks. The game saw both teams combine for eight early runs, and it eventually went into extra innings knotted at four.

After each team added a run in the 10th, WSU pulled out the win on a game-winning RBI grounder in the top of the 12th inning to end the contest 6-5. A notable mark for UNO in the loss was the gritty performance by sophomore pitcher Melissa Negrete, who pitched 12 complete innings, striking out 10 and giving up only seven hits.

In game two, the Mavs regrouped to face a Central Missouri team hot off it's 2-1

win over South Dakota, the team that ended UNO's 15-game streak a week ago.

In the game, the Mavericks got some pop back in their offense, blasting three homeruns. However, this was not enough to overcast the offense put up by the Jennies of CMU. In the final two innings, the Jennies put up four runs to win 4-3.

In the loss, freshman pitcher Beth Haley



photo by Michelle Bishop

Senior Jenifer McDowell connects with the ball during action earlier in the season. UNO is now 38-11.

struck out three batters in six innings, while lowering her record to 16-5 on the season.

The Maverick softball team, winners of 15 in a row earlier this month, has now dropped five of its last six games. The team will have a chance for redemption in its final North Central Conference tournament on May 2 and May 3 in Duluth, Minn.

Friday's issue will be the last *Gateway* of the spring semester.

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